

(Washington, D.C.) - U.S. Representative Chet Edwards announced today that the Alvarado Police Department has hired and begun to train a new police officer to help protect local citizens. The new officer, Nicholas Garrett, was hired with a \$176,675 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which Edwards supported early last year. Officer Garrett brings the total number of Alvarado police officers to 16.

Congressman Edwards said, *"Creating jobs and ensuring the safety of communities like Alvarado is one of my highest priorities. We have an obligation to work closely with local law enforcement to protect our families."*

Chief Josh Vincent, Alvarado Police Department said, *"Alvarado is growing rapidly with both retail and vehicle traffic. The extra officer will allow us to have more officers on the street to focus on a more pro-active method of policing, rather than just the usual re-active measures taken after crimes have been committed. The department is working hard to make the streets of Alvarado a safer route to travel, and a safer place to live, work, and play. It's not just our job, it's our duty to the citizens of this community."*

The COPS grant, administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, provides 100 percent of the approved salary and benefits for entry level officer positions over a three year period. The funding provides much needed support to state and local government budgets, and will help the nation's law enforcement agencies add and retain the manpower needed to fight crime more effectively through community policing.

The Department of Justice received more than 7,200 applications for more than 39,000 officer positions. However, Alvarado was one of only 1,046 law enforcement agencies nationwide to be awarded funds to hire 4,699 new officers across the country.

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